

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT M 00639 040808Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 IO-13 /106 W
-----015795 041209Z /72

R 030055Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3232
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0639

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PP ID PDIP
SUBJECT: THREAT OF EXPULSION OF INDONESIAN DIPLOMAT

REF:) PORT MORESBY 0633, B) PORT MORESBY 0626

SUMMARY: INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR ASKED ME TO APPROACH FOREIGN
MINISTER OLEWALE TO INTERCEDE IN CONFRONTATION SEEMINGLY
DEVELOPING OVER UNFORTUNATE PRESS STATEMENTS MADE BY INDO
EMBASSY INFO OFFICER RE IRIANESE LIVING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA.
IF GPNG SHOULD EXPEL INFO OFFICER, AMBASSADOR FEARS
RETALIATION FROM JAKARTA. WE ANTICIPATE EPISODE WILL BLOW
OVER, AS HAVE OTHERS OF SIMILAR VEIN. END SUMMARY.

1. INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR BUSIRI SURJOWINOTO CALLED ON ME
THIS AFTERNOON AT HIS REQUEST TO DISCUSS CURRENT PROBLEMS
BETWEEN PNG AND INDONESIA. HIS VERSION OF RECENT EVENTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT M 00639 040808Z

WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM MEDIA ACCOUNTS REPORTED IN
REFTEL A. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS NOT CALLED IN BY FOREIGN
MINISTER OLEWALE BECAUSE OF STATEMENTS OF INDONESIAN PRESS
OFFICER REPORTED IN REFTEL B. RATHER, HE WENT TO SEE
OLEWALE TO TALK ABOUT OLEWALE'S UPCOMING TRIP TO INDONESIA.
AFTER PLEASANT DISCUSSION OF TRIP, OLEWALE MENTIONED
PRESS STATEMENTS MADE BY INDO INFO OFFICER. SURJOWINOTO

APOLOGIZED FOR STATEMENTS, HE SAID, TOLD OLEWALE THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED, AND SAID HE HAD REPRIMANDED INFO OFFICER. (COMMENT: I DOUBT THAT THE STATEMENTS WERE UNAUTHORIZED.) OLEWALE ASKED AMBASSADOR HOW LONG INFO OFFICER HAD BEEN HERE AND WHEN HE WAS DUE FOR TRANSFER, BUT THAT WAS ALL, ACCORDING TO SURJOWINOTO.

2. SURJOWINOTO SAID HE WAS MUCH TAKEN ABACK TO READ IN POST COURIER THIS MORNING THAT OLEWALE HAD CALLED HIM IN TO ASK HIM TO CONSIDER REPOSTING THE INFO OFFICER BECAUSE OF HIS STATEMENTS. SURJOWINOTO SAID HE HAD APOLOGIZED FOR REMARKS, REPRIMANDED THE INFO OFFICER, AND WOULD NOW TRANSFER HIM TO OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES. BUT IF HE ASKED JAKARTA TO TRANSFER THE INFO OFFICER BY REQUEST OF FOREIGN MINISTER OLEWALE, HE THOUGHT JAKARTA WOULD RETALIATE BY ASKING PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO TRANSFER ONE OF ITS OFFICERS FROM JAKARTA. FURTHER, HE THOUGHT JAKARTA WOULD CANCEL FOREIGN MINISTER OLEWALE'S TRIP TO INDONESIA SCHEDULED FOR MAY 10.

3. I ASKED SURJOWINOTO IF HE BELIEVED OLEWALE HAD REALLY MADE THOSE STATEMENTS OR HAD THIS BEEN A POST COURIER EXTRAVAGANZA. HE REPLIED THAT POST COURIER, NBC AND ABC ALL CARRIED THE SAME REPORT. (COMMENT: OLEWALE IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM BOTH SIDES, AND I CAN BELIEVE THAT HE WAS MILD WITH SURJOWINOTO BUT TOUGH WHEN HE TALKED TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT M 00639 040808Z

PRESS.) HE ALSO SAID THAT THE INDO MILITARY COMMANDER IN JAYAPURA, IRIAN JAYA, SOMETIMES LISTENED TO NBC, AND HE WAS VERY CONCERNED THAT THE STORY WOULD GET BACK TO JAKARTA.

4. SURJOWINOTO THEN SAID THAT THE U.S. WAS A GOOD FRIEND OF INDONESIA, AND HENCE HE WOULD ASK TO USE MY GOOD OFFICES IN RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM. HE ASKED ME TO TALK TO FOREIGN MINISTER OLEWALE ABOUT THE MATTER, TO POINT OUT THAT THERE WOULD BE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES IF HE DEMANDED THE TRANSFER OF THE INFO OFFICER. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH OLEWALE (WHO IS NOW OUT OF TOWN) ON MAY 8 AND WOULD RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH HIM AT THAT TIME.

5. I ALSO TOLD SURJOWINOTO THAT I HAD SEEN OTHER DIFFICULT EPISODES IN INDONESIAN-PAPUA NEW GUINEAN RELATIONS, BUT HAD NOTED THAT THEY NEVER LASTED VERY LONG. I SAID I THOUGHT THIS MATTER WOULD BLOW OVER AND SOON BE FORGOTTEN.

6. COMMENT: SURJOWINOTO, LIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, SEEMS TO BE A BIT CLUMSY IN HANDLING THE PAPUA NEW GUINEANS.

A HARD-NOSED APPROACH IS EFFECTIVE HERE ONLY UP TO A CERTAIN POINT, AND THEN THE PAPUA NEW GUINEANS GET THEIR BACKS UP. IN THE PAST JAKARTA HAS SEEMED MORE REASONABLE THAN ITS LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE, AND I RATHER DOUBT THAT JAKARTA WOULD APPROVE OF SURJOWINOTO'S HARD LINE. HE IS INEXPERIENCED, AND I HOPE HE LEARNS SOMETHING FROM THIS EPISODE.
OLMSTED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: THREATS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL EXPULSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTM00639
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780190-0627
Format: TEL
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780597/aaaadeyi.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6d2f23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PORT MORESBY 633, 78 PORT MORESBY 626
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2804013
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THREAT OF EXPULSION OF INDONESIAN DIPLOMAT
TAGS: PINS, PDIP, PP, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6d2f23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014